

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

\$2.00

Dallas, Texas, Saturday, December 16, 2017



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

UT chancellor to step down

McRaven cites health problems, desire to spend more time with his family

By **MARC RAMIREZ**
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Bill McRaven, chancellor of the University of Texas System, plans to retire at the end of the academic year.

McRaven, who has been dealing with chronic health problems in recent years, told the system's board of regents of his plans Friday.

The retired Navy four-star admiral, who as commander of the nation's most elite and secretive fighting force led the special-operations raid resulting in the death of Osama bin Laden, said the health problems contributed to his decision.

Those concerns prompted him and his wife, Georgeann, "to reflect on the years ahead and think seriously about things we still want to do as a family," he said in a statement released by the UT System. "I believe it is time to segue to several other passions in my life that I'd like to experience," including writing and teaching.

"There is going to be a lot of speculation as to why I am stepping down, but the fact is, this is a very personal decision for me," he told the regents. "In the past 40 years, I have always put the job ahead of the family, and I think it's time for that to change."

McRaven, 62, assumed the chancellorship in 2015 after 37 distinguished years in the military, including overseeing the U.S. Special Operations Command. As chancellor, he oversaw a sprawling system

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Jae S. Lee/Staff Photographer
Bill McRaven heads a system that has 14 campuses and health science centers, 221,000 students and 100,000 workers.

CONGRESS

Tax bill gathers votes, steam

Overhaul speeds ahead as Rubio, Corker fall in line; Collins appears to be a yes

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers appeared to secure enough votes Friday to pass the most sweeping tax overhaul in decades, putting them on the cusp of their first significant legislative victory as leaders geared up to pass a \$1.5 trillion tax cut and send it to President Donald Trump by Christmas.

A day after the bill's fate appeared somewhat in doubt, Republican leaders notched two victories Friday. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, after gaining a more generous child tax credit in the final bill, said he would vote yes. And Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, who had voted against the initial Senate bill over deficit concerns, said he would support the legislation.

The bill also won praise from Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, leaving it

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Arlington avoids hit on stadium

Negotiators save tax-exempt bonds' use on pro venues

By **TOM BENNING**
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WASHINGTON — The city of Arlington has been spared a multi-million-dollar hit that an earlier version of the GOP's far-reaching tax overhaul would've put on its voter-approved financing for the Texas Rangers' new stadium.

Republican negotiators revealed Friday that they had removed from the legislation a House provision that would've prevented local governments from using tax-exempt municipal bonds to pay for the construction or renovation of professional sports stadiums.

And that last-minute reprieve was even more than the Arlington-specific

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DALLAS ISD

New names just the start



Louis DeLuca/Staff Photographer

As part of an effort to address racial inequities throughout DISD's history, the school board approved new names for three elementary schools Thursday. Robert E. Lee Elementary will become Geneva Heights Elementary, named after the plat of land where the school is built. The image of Robert E. Lee was positioned in front of the school for this photograph.

Trustees vow to 'relentlessly improve' inequities districtwide

By **CORBETT SMITH**
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Fifty years after the district absurdly declared itself "completely desegregated," Dallas ISD has taken two significant steps acknowledging and addressing its turbulent racial past.

The school board on Thursday night unanimously passed a sweeping resolution that recognized the

intergenerational effects of racial and economic segregation on its students, pledging to confront inequities and "relentlessly pursue" improvements to fix them districtwide.

Trustees also unanimously approved new names for three elementary schools that honored Confederate generals: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and William L. Cabell.

"These changes say something

about DISD and where we are as an institution," trustee Miguel Solis said. "This is bold leadership by Dr. [Michael] Hinojosa guiding us through this process. This is bold leadership by this board. And it's going to lay the path for not just acknowledgment of the history ... but also a path for remediation, and for real conversations about equity and equality and how to move our city forward for every single child to feel

like they matter in this city, regardless of circumstances."

The resolution, co-authored by trustee Joyce Foreman and Solis, is largely symbolic but draws outlines where the district might target its efforts after a racial equity audit, conducted by a group from San Diego State University, is presented to the district in early 2018.

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COLLIN COUNTY

Police: Jailed man plotted killings

Child porn suspect accused of targeting witness, prosecutor

By **VALERIE WIGGLESWORTH**
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DANIEL STEFFEN

Daniel Barry Steffen, 69, has been in custody since Aug. 31. On Thursday, Plano

police issued new warrants charging him with criminal solicitation of capital murder and criminal attempt to improperly contact a victim. His bail is now set at \$2.34 million.

Since his arrest, Steffen

had had numerous conversations with a fellow inmate, according to a police affidavit. The inmate was in contact with a brother who was supposed to meet with "family connections" in Chicago about having "the suspect's prosecutor executed," the affidavit says.

There were also conversations about Steffen wanting to kill the man who initially called police about his alleged inappropriate behavior

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NATION & WORLD

Birth control rules halted

A federal judge orders the Trump administration not to enforce new rules that could significantly reduce women's access to free birth control. **4A**

Mexican soldiers' new role

Mexico's Congress approves legislation that would give the military a legal framework to act as police, despite objections from human rights groups. **4A**

METRO & STATE

Dallas Opera CEO resigns

Keith Cerny, general director and CEO of the Dallas Opera for more than seven years, unexpectedly announces his resignation. **1B**

SPORTSDAY

Cowboys RB making mark

Cowboys running back Alfred Morris, filling in for suspended Ezekiel Elliott, has made the most of the opportunity as he prepares to become a free agent, Brandon George writes. **1C**

BUSINESS

New dining in The Colony

Urban8, a food court with eight restaurants and a bar, is set to open next spring in The Colony. **1D**

ARTS & LIFE

Winter vegetables thrive

Growing some vegetables through winter is not only possible in North Texas, it's easy. **1E**

Evening rain



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